

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

Hospital Consumer Reports available now on State Department of Health Web Site

Consumers will now have information on the State Department of Health Web site to help them evaluate the availability and quality of hospitals in Indiana.

The Hospital Consumer Reports contain a profile of each of the 135 acute care hospitals in Indiana. Each consumer report contains the license information, a list of facilities under that license, hospital staffing, available services, a report of the hospital's performance during recent state surveys, and a quality indicator report.

"This is part of our effort to make health care information available to

consumers," said Terry Whitson, assistant commissioner for Health Care Regulatory Services.

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*--Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner*

"We will be updating the survey information every two weeks, so the public has the latest survey information available."

The Hospital Consumer Reports are based on data reported to the

State Department of Health by the hospital and information gathered during surveys conducted by state surveyors. The reports are limited to acute care hospitals and do not include psychiatric hospitals.

The quality indicator report lists 10 clinical quality measures, including five measures on acute myocardial infarction (heart attack); two measures on heart failure; and three measures on pneumonia. Each measure represents a treatment that the health care provider should follow in treating the condition.

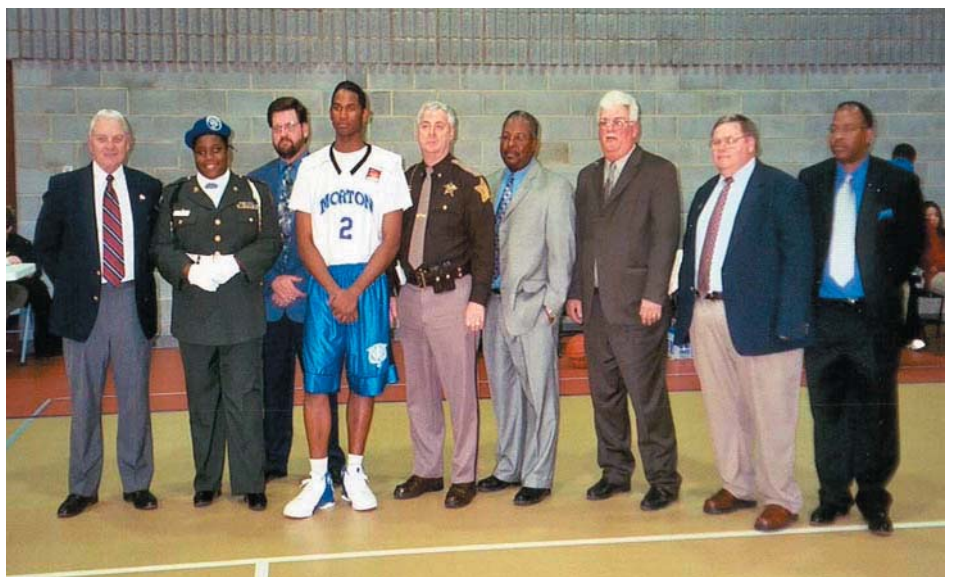
(See **HOSPITAL REPORTS**– Page 4)

Morton Memorial Student Athletes and Fans Honored

On December 13, 2004, student athletes and fans at Morton Memorial High School were honored with a state Sportsmanship Award for basketball and volleyball for the 2003-2004 school season. Morton Memorial is part of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home in Knightstown.

This award is presented by the Indiana High School Athletic Association and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to high schools that followed specific sportsmanship criteria supplied by the Indiana High School Athletic Association during the 2003-2004 school year.

(See **SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**– Page 4)



Pictured above (from left to right): IHSAA rep. Ray Craft, Morton student Alycia Stone, Principal Kevin Porter, Morton student Jerold Bellamy, Rush County Sheriff Jim Owens, Varsity Coach Ron Coatie, Assistant Coach Wayne Graham, ISSCH Supt. Paul Wilkinson, and Assistant Coach Ken Coatie.

■ <http://www.statehealth.IN.gov> ■



Staff celebrates 2004 Year-End Bash



(Above) Staff members choose from the variety of food brought to the 2004 Year-End Bash.



(Right) Human Resources staff members Sarah Swander and Sandy Dockery smile for the camera as they join fellow staff at the pitch-in.



(Above from left to right) Tami Barret, Commissioner's office; Barbara Gibson, Office of Policy; and State Health Commissioner Gregory Wilson, M.D. enjoy the festivities.

Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers

In December 2004, staff at the State Department of Health donated 350 food items for the state employee Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers food drive. These items were given to the St. Thomas Aquinas Food Bank. Following is a letter from Mark Varnau, director of the St. Thomas Aquinas Food Bank, which was received by Marc LoCascio, Information Technology Services:

Dear Marc,

Thank you, and please thank all of your colleagues also, for your wonderful gift of food to those less fortunate. And thanks, too, for helping Ed and the others stock the shelves.

Serving close to 400 families each month means the food moves off the shelves pretty quickly so we genuinely appreciate your assistance!

Warm regards,
Mark Varnau

Congratulations!

ISDH staff contributed
\$30,558 to the 2004-2005
State Employees'
Community Campaign.



The Indiana State Department of Health *Express* is a biweekly publication for ISDH employees and stakeholders. Words in blue are links that you can access directly if you read the *Express* online. To submit news items, call (317) 234-2817 or send information to: ISDH *Express*, Office of Public Affairs, 2 N. Meridian St., Section 6G, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3003. Inquiries should be directed to:

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State Health Commissioner

State Plan Addresses Burden of Asthma

Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases in the world, and as many as 341,000 adult Hoosiers have been diagnosed with asthma.

To address the burden of asthma in the state, the Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition, the Indiana State Department of Health, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management recently released "A Strategic Plan for Addressing Asthma in Indiana."

Asthma is a pulmonary disease that results from oversensitivity of the airways in the lungs, causing the airways to narrow and clog in response to irritants like allergens, environmental tobacco smoke, some viruses, exercise, emotional stress, and other stimulation.

"The cost of asthma is high, both in dollars and in reduced quality of life," said State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D.

"While highly effective treatment exists, asthma is often uncontrolled or poorly controlled, need-



lessly keeping those who suffer with the disease from school, work, and leisure activities," Dr. Wilson said.

In a 2002 Indiana health survey, 17.3 percent of individuals with asthma reported having symptoms every day, 30 percent reported

requiring urgent care for asthma, and 54.9 percent said they had an asthma attack in the last year.

Some of the goals outlined in the five-year strategic plan are:

- To increase public awareness and understanding of asthma as a serious chronic disease and help individuals with asthma to control symptoms;
- To address barriers to access to quality medical care and supportive outreach services;
- To ensure health care providers follow best practice guidelines in the diagnosis and management of asthma; and
- To reduce environmental hazards that contribute to asthma in Indiana homes, rental properties, and commercial buildings.

"Although asthma deaths have declined 27 percent since 1997, we

(See **ASTHMA** – Page 4)

Staff honored for 35 years of service to state

On December 14, 2004, State Health Commissioner Gregory Wilson, M.D. recognized two staff members at the Indiana State Department of Health for their long-time service to the state.

Both Thomas Robinson with Asset Services (pictured on the left in the photo to the right) and Clarella Daniels with Administrative Services (on the right) received certificates commemorating their 35 years of service as state employees.



Hospital Reports

(Continued from page 1)



This information is gathered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Hospital Quality Alliance, a public-private collaboration that collects and reports hospital quality performance information.

The state average for number of deficiencies on state licensure surveys is calculated using only the average number of deficiencies on state licensure surveys and does not include accreditation surveys that substitute for an annual state licensure survey.

Hospitals can be accredited by outside accreditation organizations. These accreditation surveys, which are conducted by national associations, generally occur once every three years. In those years, the hospital may request that the accreditation survey substitute for the annual state licensure survey.

Accreditation surveys are not included in the "state licensure surveys" section of the report.

The table shows only the three most recent state licensure surveys. Accreditation surveys are listed in

the survey history section of the Hospital Consumer Report. The number of tags cited state "n/a" to eliminate confusion as to whether there was a state deficiency.

Other consumer reports available on the Web site are:

- Consumer Guide to Nursing Homes;
- Nursing Home Report Cards;
- Home Health Agency Consumer Reports; and
- Hospice Consumer Reports.

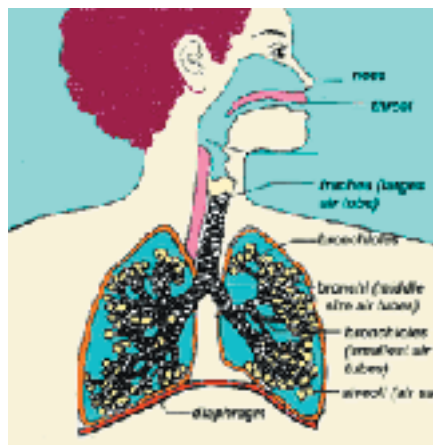
To access these reports, log on to www.statehealth.in.gov and click on the "Consumer Reports" button.

Asthma

(Continued from page 3)

know that the severity of asthma in Indiana is still significant," said Judith Ganser, M.D., medical director, Maternal and Children's Special Health Care division at the State Department of Health.

"The state asthma strategic plan will be an important tool for health professionals, educators, schools, environmental groups, and community-based organizations to use



to improve the health and quality of life of individuals with asthma," Dr. Ganser said.

The complete state asthma strategic plan, as well as more information on the state Asthma Program and the Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition is available on the State Department of Health Web site at www.statehealth.in.gov.

Sportsmanship Award

(Continued from page 1)

Of the 396 eligible high schools in the state, Morton Memorial High School was one of only 70 schools that qualified for the award.

"This is much more than just a school award, this honor extends to our entire community, because fans are a very important part of building a positive and supportive atmosphere," said Paul Wilkinson, superintendent of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home.

Wilkinson said that a commemorative banner now hangs in the school gym.

"The banner will serve as a reminder to every athlete, fan, and coach who enters the gym of the importance of practicing good sportsmanship and fair play," said Wilkinson.

Morton Memorial High School Principal Kevin Porter and students Alycia Stone and Jerald Bellamy presented the banner to students and fans during the ceremony on December 13. They were joined by Indiana High School Athletic Association representative Ray Craft and Indiana Criminal Justice Institute representative Sheriff Mark Click with Rush County.